

# Presentation

Agenda Item #	4
Meeting Date	March 7, 2005
Prepared By	Suzanne Ludlow, Community & Government Liaison
Approved By	

<b>Discussion Item</b>	M-NCPPC Plans for Takoma-Piney Branch Park
<b>Background</b>	<p>Takoma-Piney Branch Park is the Maryland-National Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) park that stretches between Piney Branch Elementary School and Takoma Park Middle School and includes Ed Wilhelm Field. It has been in need of renovation for a number of years to address issues such as park security, stormwater control, and the need to upgrade park equipment and facilities.</p> <p>Several years ago, the community was involved in preparing a facility plan for the park, but those plans were not implemented. A new planning effort has been undertaken based on the previous plan, with consultation with park neighbors, including Piney Branch Elementary School, the City of Takoma Park, and a number of residents. A community meeting was held in January and there were follow-up discussions via e-mail about some of the plan elements (especially related to parking). Comments were considered and a revised facility plan is now being presented to the City Council. Presenting at the Council meeting will be Project Manager Ellen Masciocchi of Park and Planning, and Kevin Small of Frederick Ward Associates.</p> <p>In addition to the plans for the active portions of the park, Park and Planning undertook a separate study of the undeveloped area called the "Takoma Woods" to consider options for partial stream daylighting, environmental study by the nearby schools, and protection of the natural area. The study resulted in a report which outlined options and implementation costs. Follow-up discussions with interested parties, such as the Committee on the Environment, the Green Team, and the Ritchie Citizens Association will be facilitated by City staff. The facility plan for Takoma-Piney Branch Park will not include work in the undeveloped area, but the Takoma Woods area will benefit from the stormwater improvements in the plan.</p> <p>The facility plan will go before the Planning Board on May 5th. Park and Planning staff will be asking the Planning Board to approve the facility plan and to include funding for the project in the Capital Improvement Program.</p>
<b>Policy</b>	The City Council is concerned with development plans affecting Takoma Park.
<b>Fiscal Impact</b>	The City may be asked to contribute to the cost of a skateboard park in the location of the current tennis courts.
<b>Attachments</b>	None
<b>Recommendations</b>	Council to hear presentation.